

COMPARISON OF BACON YIELD OF DIFFERENT SWINE CROSSES

H.S.C. Mendis¹, L. Rathnayake² and A.M.J.B. Adikari¹

¹ *Department of Agricultural Systems, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka.*

² *Keells Food Products PLC, No: 16, Minuwangoda Road, Ekala, Ja-ela, Sri Lanka.*

Swine production is considered as an efficient enterprise especially for developing countries due to rapid growth of pigs, low input demand, high feed conversion ratio, quick marketability and ability to produce highly valuable demanded value added processed meat products. Selecting of an effective pig breed with the ability to produce maximum carcass yield is important in order to produce maximum amount of value added processed meat products. Under local conditions, one of the biggest problems is the unavailability of pure breeds for slaughtering and at present, several crosses are used for slaughtering. Thus, this study was conducted to identify the impacts of swine crosses, sex and weight of pigs on bacon yield.

Three swine crosses (Land Race X Large White, Land Race X Duroc and Duroc X Duroc) of three weight ranges (70-80 kg, 80-90 kg and 90-100 kg) were used in this study. Four animals from each weight range including two males and two females were used. Live weight, carcass weight, carcass length, and weight of bacon yield were recorded and data were analyzed using GLM model of the SAS software package.

Results revealed that, weight range of pigs has impacted significantly ($p < 0.05$) on bacon yield. Based on the findings, the ideal weight range that is capable in producing the maximum bacon yield is 90-100 kg. Though the impact of sex of the animal is not statistically significant at 5% level of probability, it was observed that, both carcass yield percentage and bacon yield of female pigs (sows) were slightly higher than that of male pigs (boars) irrespective of the cross. Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that, the use of sows in bacon production is beneficial. Out of the three crosses listed, Land Race X Large White cross has produced the maximum bacon yield. Finally, it is possible to conclude that, bacon yield would be maximum when sows of Land Race X Large White cross with a body weight of 90-100 kg.

Key words: Swine, Carcass yield, Bacon yield, Land Race, Large White, Duroc